

the care and protection of a home and carries a name, and brand it again as a bastard?"

"And that is what it means. We women physicians, upon whom the girl throws this thing, we who shoulder the responsibility the man has thrust aside, are trying to protect the child and give it a name, and all we get is blame.

"There was no question of coercion in this case, and, even had there been, it would seem to me that both mother and child were being protected when the girl was free to go out into the world without the evidence of her sin with her, and the child was placed with people who loved it and would always keep anyone from knowing it was not legitimate.

"So long as the system continues which enables men to bribe or lie or make false promises to women until they attain their desires and then discard the girls when they are in a condition that their sin cannot be hidden, so long must we women physicians take the burden the men have thrown on our shoulders and become responsible for the child that they send into the world branded, unless we are able to shield it.

"I think, from the standpoint of the woman, it is a mistake to take these children and have them adopted because it permits the girl to go out into the world free and makes her sin seem a light one to her because she avoided its discovery.

"But we have the child to consider. And it does not seem right to us that the child must be branded illegitimate, live with that brand all of its life, suffer for the lust and the cowardice of its father and the weakness and the cowardice of its mother, when it lies in our power to guard the child.

"In the case of Vida Hagen, I am able to prove that the girl, when her trouble was upon her, sought out a physician to have an illegal operation performed, so that she need not bring into the world the evidence of her weakness.

"But we women physicians do not

countenance those operations because they injure the mother. This girl was advised to have her baby. She was sent to Dr. Acres with the understanding that Dr. Acres would see that the baby was adopted and would take care of her until the child came into the world.

"The girl lived with Dr. Acres in her home for three months before her child was born. She never said she wanted the child, and she signed a release of that child when it was given out in adoption.

"And now, in my opinion, she has done a criminal thing, for she has taken that little baby girl, that had the protection of a home and a name, that baby that no one knew was not the natural child of its foster parents, and she has destroyed all that we attempted to do for it, and branded it to the world as a bastard child, and a girl-child cannot live that down.

"What can she do for it? She is a girl working as a servant. She cannot keep it with her, but will have to put it in some one's home, where it will not receive the loving care of its foster parents, but hired care.

"It is very well to talk of 'mother-love' and mother-love is the most beautiful thing in the world, but we women physicians try to look at the problem from every angle, what is best for the mother and what is best for the child, and in this case Dr. Acres did what the mother told her she desired and what she certainly thought was for the best happiness of the baby."

Dr. Dickenson looked at me carefully a moment. "Newspapers publish one side of a question," she said. "And they call that fair. I think both sides should be heard before one or the other is condemned."